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BEFORE THE
ARIZONA POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINE SITING COMMITTEE

2015 OCT 13 P 2:08

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF SUNZIA TRANSMISSION LLC, IN)
CONFORMANCE WITH THE)
REQUIREMENTS OF ARIZONA REVISED)
STATUTES 40-360, ET SEQ., FOR A)
CERTIFICATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL) DOCKET NO. L-00000YY-15-0318-00171
COMPATIBILITY AUTHORIZING THE) Case No. 171
SUNZIA SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION)
PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES THE)
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW 500 KV)
TRANSMISSION LINES AND)
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ORIGINATING) NOTICE OF FILING TESTIMONY
AT A NEW SUBSTATION (SUNZIA EAST)) SUMMARY OF VASHTI "TICE" SUPPLEE
IN LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO,) ON BEHALF OF CHRISTINA MCVIE,
AND TERMINATING AT THE PINAL) POTENTIAL PARTY/INTERVENOR
CENTRAL SUBSTATION IN PINAL)
COUNTY, ARIZONA. THE ARIZONA)
PORTION OF THE PROJECT IS LOCATED)
WITHIN GRAHAM, GREENLEE,)
COCHISE, PINAL, AND PIMA COUNTIES.)

TESTIMONY SUMMARY

OF VASHTI "TICE" SUPPLEE

ON BEHALF OF POTENTIAL PARTY

CHRISTINA MCVIE

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

OCT 13 2015

DOCKETED BY

BAU

Ms. Supplee resides at 918 W. Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. Ms. Supplee received her B.S. from Cornell University in Wildlife Ecology in 1973. Ms. Supplee received her M.S. from the University of Arizona in Wildlife Management in 1981. Ms. Supplee has been employed as the National Audubon Society's Arizona interim Executive Director since January 2015 and as the National Audubon Society's Arizona Director of Bird Conservation since 2005.

EXHIBIT

1 Ms. Supplee has been an Adjunct Faculty member of Phoenix College (Maricopa County
2 Community Colleges) since 2006. Previously, Ms. Supplee was employed as Game Branch Chief
3 of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AzGFD) from 1988-2004 and Wildlife Habitat
4 Program Manager of Region 5 (southeastern Arizona) of AzGFD from 1979-1988. Ms. Supplee
5 has been co-administrating the Arizona Important Bird Area Program, in conjunction with the
6 Tucson Audubon Society, since 2005. Ms. Supplee has specific expertise and knowledge about
7 wildlife in general and specifically about birds, bird habitats and bird related recreation and
8 economic values in the state of Arizona.

9 Ms. Supplee will testify to what constitutes habitat fragmentation generally, how the
10 proposed project may impact southeastern Arizona, and specifically how it might impact the
11 lower San Pedro River Valley. She will reference <http://habimap.org/habimap/>

12 Ms. Supplee will testify to the biodiversity of the region, and specifically the lower San
13 Pedro River watershed, and the value of the entire valley, grasslands and riparian habitats. She
14 may reference portions of: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/bulletin/2004/01-02/06-09.pdf> ;
15 [https://www.academia.edu/2899439/A_National_Approach_for_Mapping_and_Quantifying_Ha](https://www.academia.edu/2899439/A_National_Approach_for_Mapping_and_Quantifying_Habitat-based_Biodiversity_Metrics_across_Multiple_Spatial_Scales)
16 [bitat-based Biodiversity Metrics across Multiple Spatial Scales](https://www.academia.edu/2899439/A_National_Approach_for_Mapping_and_Quantifying_Habitat-based_Biodiversity_Metrics_across_Multiple_Spatial_Scales) ;
17 [http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces12/presentations/4%20Thursday/4%20Jacksonville-](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces12/presentations/4%20Thursday/4%20Jacksonville-Tallahassee/Session%207D/YES/1100%20Boykin1.pdf)
18 [Tallahassee/Session%207D/YES/1100%20Boykin1.pdf](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aces12/presentations/4%20Thursday/4%20Jacksonville-Tallahassee/Session%207D/YES/1100%20Boykin1.pdf) ;
19 http://www.azgfd.gov/pdfs/w_c/partners_flight/APIF%20Conservation%20Plan.1999.Final.pdf ;
20 [http://azconservation.org/dl/TNCAZ_Ecoregions_Conservation_Priorities_Apache_Highlands.p](http://azconservation.org/dl/TNCAZ_Ecoregions_Conservation_Priorities_Apache_Highlands.pdf)
21 [df](http://azconservation.org/dl/TNCAZ_Ecoregions_Conservation_Priorities_Apache_Highlands.pdf) ; http://azconservation.org/dl/TNCAZ_Ecoregions_SW_Ecoregional_Summary.pdf ;
22 http://azconservation.org/dl/Bodner_et_al_2013_Perspectives_on_Grassland_Valley_Landscape
23 [s.pdf](http://azconservation.org/dl/Bodner_et_al_2013_Perspectives_on_Grassland_Valley_Landscape) ; and http://www.nfwf.org/skyisland/Documents/Sky_Island_Grass_Biz_Plan.pdf . Ms.
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1 Supplee may also refer to exhibits included in Ms. McVie's exhibits but they will not duplicate
2 testimony.

3 Ms. Supplee will generally describe the Important Bird Area Program and pertinent data
4 regarding specific areas of concern, such as the Willcox Playa and its associated wetlands and
5 farmlands, the Pinaleno Mountains and the lower San Pedro River. She will reference:

6 <http://aziba.org/> ; http://aziba.org/?page_id=1150 ; http://aziba.org/?page_id=1255 ;
7 http://aziba.org/?page_id=461 ; http://aziba.org/?page_id=712

8 Ms. Supplee will discuss potential conflicts between the construction, operation and
9 maintenance of transmission towers and lines and avian species. She will also discuss the
10 potential for the introduction of invasive species to cause habitat modification and altered fire
11 regimes due to the creation of access roads, construction and maintenance activities, and
12 subsequent access to previously roadless areas by others. She will reference portions of:

13 http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr191/Asilomar/pdfs/1051-1064.pdf ;
14 <http://www.the->
15 [eis.com/data/literature/biological%20and%20conservation%20aspects%20of%20bird%20mortality%20caused%20by%20electricity%20power%20lines%20-%20a%20review.pdf](http://www.the-eis.com/data/literature/biological%20and%20conservation%20aspects%20of%20bird%20mortality%20caused%20by%20electricity%20power%20lines%20-%20a%20review.pdf) ; and
16 http://www.dodpif.org/downloads/APLIC_2006_SuggestedPractices.pdf
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18 Ms. Supplee will read from the docketed October 6, 2015 comment letter of the Nature
19 Conservancy (TNC) regarding habitat types and fragmentation, economics and potential
20 mitigation and impacts to conservation efforts within the lower San Pedro River watershed and
21 will utilize a map exhibit prepared by TNC in April of 2012 to illustrate same. She may also
22 discuss mitigation strategies.
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1 Ms. Supplee will generally discuss state, and specifically southeastern Arizona region-
2 wide, economic impacts of watchable wildlife, including data pertinent to Graham, Greenlee,
3 Cochise, Pima and Pinal counties. She will reference:

4 [http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/images/stories/News/TAS-AZ-WildlifeWatching-Analysis-2011-](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/images/stories/News/TAS-AZ-WildlifeWatching-Analysis-2011-130718.pdf)
5 [130718.pdf](http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/birders-mean-business.html) ; <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/birding/birders-mean-business.html>

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8 Respectfully submitted,

9
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